

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00

DEAE-00 SNM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 NSCE-00 PA-01

/053 W

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O R 071540Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 834

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3191

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SNAR, HO

SUBJECT: ARREST OF TIEMPO DIRECTOR MANUEL GAMERO

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 3185

1. DCM DISCUSSED DETENTION NEWSMAN MANUEL GAMERO, DIRECTOR OF THE SAN PEDRO SULA DAILY TIEMPO, WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER POLICAROP CALLEJAS MORNING JULY 7. CALLEJAS SAID HE IS UNABLE TO ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT HAS APPEARED IN PRESS AND WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE CASE. GAMERO WAS ARRESTED JULY 5 UNDER COURT ORDER ISSUED BY JUDGE OF CRIMINAL COURT IN SAN PEDRO SULA; THE CASE IS NOW IN THE "SUMARIO" (SECRET) STAGE OF THE HONDURAN JUDICIAL PROCESS; UNDER THE LAW, HE CAN BE DETAINED FOR SIX DAYS AND MUST BE RELEASED OR HAVE FORMAL CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM AT THE END OF THAT PERIOD.

2. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, CALLEJAS SAID THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE CASE; IT IS BEFORE THE COURTS. WHEN DCM MENTIONED OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MINISTER OF
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INFORMATION O'CONNOR JULY 6, CALLEJAS POINTED OUT THERE WAS A DISCREPANCY IN THE STATEMENT, WHICH SAID GAMERO WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AS A "MATERIAL WITNESS," AND THE ACTION TAKEN IN DETAINING GAMERO UNDER THE SUMARIO PROCESS, INDICATING THAT CRIMINAL CHARGES MAY BE BROUGHT AGAINST HIM.

3. DCM TOLD CALLEJAS THAT WE HAVE REPORTED ARREST TO DEPARTMENT,

AND ADDED THAT UNDOUBTEDLY THE EMBASSY WILL RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM THE U.S. CALLEJAS SAID HE WISHED HE COULD THROW MORE LIGHT ON THE CASE, BUT HE HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION. HE REFERRED TO THE NARCOTICS SCANDAL, WHICH HE SAID IS "GROWING AND GROWING," APPARENTLY INDICATING THAT OUTCOME CANNOT BE FORESEEN.

4. UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS US OTHERWISE, WE DO NOT INTEND MAKE FORMAL DEMARCHE TO GOH ON GAMERO CASE AT THIS STAGE OF THE PROCEDURE. GOH IS FULLY AWARE, HOWEVER, OF OUR POSITION. JARAMILLO

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